

Forum: Security Council

Issue: Evaluating the efficiency of divesting resources to cooperative efforts with the African Union



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Personal Introduction

Dear delegates,

My name is Paraskevi Panagiotopoulou, and I currently attend the 10th grade in the German School of Athens (Deutsche Schule Athen). As an engaged member of my school's MUN club and participant in more than 13 conferences with additional to come, I still have difficulty expressing how phenomenal this journey has been for me. This year, I have been handed the outmost honor and privilege of serving as one of two Deputy Presidents in the 8th ACGMUN conference's Security Council.

First and foremost, I would like to welcome you to the 8th session of the ACGMUN and congratulate you on your placement in this committee. I can guarantee that it will be incredibly memorable for you. During the conference, you will broaden your diplomatic horizons by collaborating with each other in order to create resolutions, engage in fruitful debates, and meet other similarly ambitious and driven individuals. While simulating the work of the UN, you will gain new political knowledge, insight and ultimately view the world in a completely different light. Those of you representing p5 Member States will even be granted the marvelous privilege to veto.

The first topic of this committee, namely "Evaluating the efficiency of divesting resources to cooperative efforts with the African Union" is a complex issue that requires an immediate, multifaceted and coordinated approach. This study guide will provide you with an overview of the topic as a whole. However, you are strongly encouraged to conduct your own research in order to develop a more established and deeper understanding of the topic's various aspects. If you have any questions regarding the first topic or the conference, feel free to reach out to me anytime: evitapanagiotopoulou85@gmail.com. I look forward to fostering a collaborative, innovative, intellectual and accepting environment alongside you and my fellow presidents. I am very excited to get to know all of you in March!

Topic Introduction

The African Union, or AU abbreviated, is a continental body comprised of the 55 Member States currently inhabiting the African Continent¹. The AU's foundations lie in the advancement of diplomatic relations through geopolitics and its main vision and goal, as stated by its founding Member States, remains “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.”² In order to promote sustainable development within the African continent, the AU follows Agenda 2063³, a strategic framework created to support its integration, socio-economic development, long term prosperity, and, ultimately, international cooperation within a timeframe of 50 years.



Figure 1 : An ordinary AU parliamentary meeting⁴

Even though the AU remains progressive in its efforts, in recent years, it has become evident that these have been heavily influenced by a variety of internal factors. Africa's urgent infrastructure needs, resource scarcity, requirements for economic and financial support, corruption in governments, authoritarian regimes, security concerns, fossil fuel debates and loss of foreign private investment have left the continent in a state of dependency. In fact, about 25% of Africa's Gross Domestic Product, or GDP, equating to about \$148 billion annually⁵, has been lost to corrupt practices, while 11 AU countries have reported an Agenda 2063 implementation rate of 30% or less⁶. International intervention and

¹ African Union. “About the African Union.” Au.int, African Union, 2019, au.int/en/overview.

² African Union. “About the African Union.” Au.int, African Union, 2019, au.int/en/overview.

³ African Union. “About the African Union.” Au.int, African Union, 2019, au.int/en/overview.

⁴ Nantulya, Paul. “The African Union at 20: Much Accomplished, More Challenges Ahead.” Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 2022, africacenter.org/spotlight/african-union-20-much-accomplished-more-challenges-ahead/.

⁵ “Africa Lost 25% GDP to Corruption.” OCCRP, 2025, www.occrp.org/en/news/africa-lost-25-gdp-to-corruption. Accessed 15 Feb. 2025.

⁶ Harsh Mahaseth. “The Role of the African Union and Agenda 2063 in Paving the Future of Africa.” Modern Diplomacy, 18 Oct. 2024, moderndiplomacy.eu/2024/10/18/the-role-of-the-african-union-and-agenda-2063-in-paving-the-future-of-africa/.

thorough communication efforts are essential in order to support the AU's goals and aid its constant fight towards a better Africa for all.

Taking these challenges into consideration, the divestiture of resources derived from separate initiatives towards the AU's revitalization efforts seems crucial, but a distinct dilemma arises: Will this be efficient and support the AU's goal of independence, or will it further complicate matters and put Africa's future in the hands of foreign powers? The process of divesting resources can be loosely defined as selling investments, divisions, or assets of different initiatives in order to transform them into funds and cover the four main areas of AU cooperation, namely political, economic, trade and financial, agricultural in regards to food security, as well as socio-cultural. However, in order for this cooperation to be achieved, a multifaceted, coordinated approach through open, transparent and ambiguous communication as well as continuous involvement are crucial, and community leaders need to be held accountable.

This year's agenda topic, namely "Balancing Infinite Opportunities (BIOΣ)", highlights the need for balance between limitless potential growth and sustainability, ethics and conscience. This topic reflects the agenda's core values fittingly, as the AU strives for growth and development without the neglect or loss of traditional African values, patriotism, culture or independence.

Definition of Key Terms

Divesting resources

"Divestiture is the partial or full disposal of a company or other entity's operations or assets through sale, exchange, closure, or bankruptcy"⁷, simplified the opposite of an investment. The term "divesting resources", in this specific political context, refers to divesting assets from separate initiatives towards cooperative efforts with the AU, in order to conceive mostly financial and infrastructural support as well as crisis management.

Geopolitics

This term refers to "the study of how the physical features of a country or area of the world affect its political activity and relationships with other countries"⁸.

⁷ [www.investopedia.com › terms › d](https://www.investopedia.com/terms/d/divestiture/)

⁸ ---. "Geopolitics." @CambridgeWords, 28 Sept. 2022, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/geopolitics.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

This term refers to “a category of cross-border investment associated with a (private) resident in one economy having control or a significant degree of influence on the management of an enterprise that is resident in another economy”⁹. It is strictly used in a financial sense and highly relevant to the issue since private stakeholders/companies often support AU initiatives through equity funding.

Foreign Direct Investment flows

This term refers to “the value of cross-border transactions related to direct investment over time (hence) when a (private) investor resident in one economy establishes a lasting interest in and a significant degree of influence over an enterprise resident in another economy”¹⁰. Simplified, monitoring FDI flows is crucial in the continuous support of councils like the AU’s.

Political integration

This term refers to “the integration of components within political systems and the integration of political systems with economic, social, and other human systems”¹¹. The political integration of the AU’s Agenda 2063 as well as each individual AU Council Member’s integration within the international community is implied.

Energy crisis

This term refers to “a society-wide economic problem caused by a constricted supply of energy, leading to diminished availability and increased price to consumers”¹².

Corruption

This term refers to “dishonest or illegal behavior especially by powerful people (such as government officials or police officers)”¹³.

⁹“Glossary | DataBank.” Worldbank.org, 2015, databank.worldbank.org/metadataglossary/world-development-indicators/series/BX.KLT.DINV.CD. Accessed 15 Feb. 2025.

¹⁰ “Pastoral Nomadism | Definition, Examples, & Facts.” Encyclopedia Britannica, www.britannica.com/topic/pastoral-nomadism.

¹¹ Sagepub.com, 2025, sk.sagepub.com/ency/edvol/intlpoliticalscience/chpt/political-integration.

¹² “Energy Crisis: Definition and Causes.” Assignment Point, assignmentpoint.com/energy-crisis-definition-causes/.

¹³ Merriam-Webster. “Definition of CORRUPTION.” Merriam-Webster.com, 2019, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/corruption.

Authoritarian regime

This term refers to “systems of government that have no established mechanism for the transfer of executive power and do not afford their citizens civil liberties or political rights”¹⁴.

Globalization

This term refers to “the growing interdependence of the world’s economies, cultures, and populations, brought about by cross-border trade, technology, flows of investment, people, and information”¹⁵.

Venture Capital (VC)

This term refers to “a form of private equity and a type of financing for startup companies and small businesses with long-term growth potential. Venture capital generally comes from investors, investment banks, and financial institutions”¹⁶.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

This term refers to “the total value of all finished goods and services produced within a country in a specific time period”¹⁷.

Background Information

Brief History of the African Union

The African Union was officially launched in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa as a renewed and improved replacement of Africa’s first post-independence continental institution, the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

The OAU served as the AU’s predecessor from May 1963, when 32 independent African States met in Addis Ababa Ethiopia in order to sign the OAU Charter. This Charter was centered on a political ideology known as “Pan-Africanism”, derived from African Socialism and ideals of freedom, a sense of community, solidarity, independence and willingness to uphold African traditions as well as honor African cultures.¹⁸ The OAU founding fathers’ objectives were to move past the vastly diverse continent’s colonization, apartheid and settlement history, by redirecting Africa towards self-reliance,

¹⁴ ---. “Authoritarianism.” Encyclopædia Britannica, 28 Mar. 2024, www.britannica.com/topic/authoritarianism.

¹⁵ Kolb, Melina. “What Is Globalization?” Peterson Institute for International Economics, 29 Oct. 2018, www.piie.com/microsites/globalization/what-is-globalization.

¹⁶ [www.investopedia.com > terms > v](https://www.investopedia.com/terms/v/)

¹⁷ [www.investopedia.com > terms > g](https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/)

¹⁸ ---. “About the African Union.” Au.int, African Union, 2019, au.int/en/overview.

democratization, fair and community based constitutions, individual justice systems and a sense of freedom. Ultimately, the institution's goals were to "promote the unity and solidarity of the African States, coordinate and intensify their cooperation and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa, defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity and independence, eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa to promote international cooperation, having due regard to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹⁹."

However, the OAU's influence over the continent came to a halt on the 9. September of 1999, when its Heads of State and Government issued the newfound Sirte Deceleration in Sirte, Libya, affirming the establishment of the AU alongside a new, essential purpose: to integrate the continent's economy into the international political scene and to enable quicker responses to the socio-economic impacts of globalization. Through this Declaration, the continent's focus was shifted from the denouncement of colonialism and oppression to the desire to thrive as a self-governing body, and to integrate seamlessly.

In the period moving into the present day, the AU continues to serve as the main decision making, representative and Pan-African organ of the African Continent, with its 2063 Agenda on Sustainable Development as its leading aspiration, following multiple implementation plans and frameworks. In addition, the AU follows a distinct structure, comprised of seven principal decision making bodies, namely the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the Executive Council, the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), Specialized Technical Committees (STCs), the Peace and Security Council, the African Union Commission and, for civil society, the Pan-African Parliament and the Economic, Social & Cultural Council (ECOSOCC)²⁰. The AU's Peace and Security Council works in close collaboration with the United Nations Security Council, thus fostering a sense of mutual understanding and respect. Even though the AU's work has been instrumental in coordinating all aspects of life in Africa, challenges have arisen that may threaten its future endeavors.

¹⁹ ---. "About the African Union." Au.int, African Union, 2019, au.int/en/overview.

²⁰ ---. "About the African Union." Au.int, African Union, 2019, au.int/en/overview.

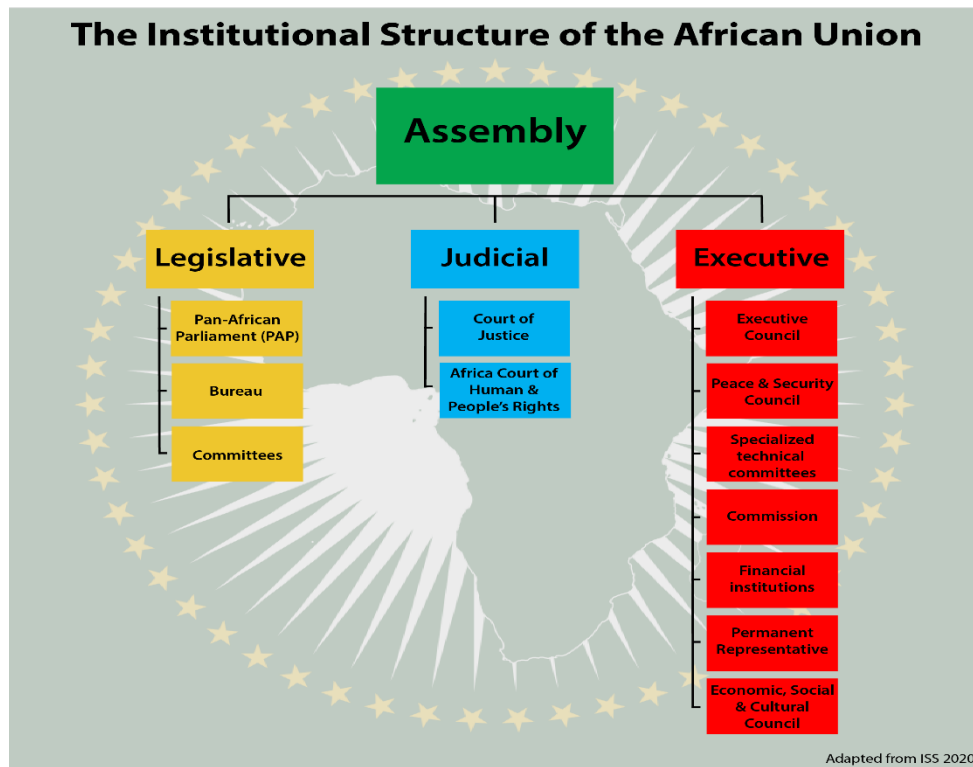


Figure 2: Graph depicting the Institutional Structure of the African Union (AU)²¹

Current challenges facing the African Union

It is undeniable that not only geopolitical, but also socioeconomic, humanitarian and ecological, tensions are rising within the African Continent. The security needs and humanitarian crises facing Africa today are of paramount importance to consider.

Perhaps the most heavily criticized issue barreling the AU from stronger diplomatic bonds are the extremely high levels of government corruption and authoritarianism residing in African Member States. The AU is comprised of the individual governments of all African Nations, and when statistics show that only ten countries achieve 50% or more of their Agenda 2063 sustainable development goals²², while corruption rises at an all-time high, the organizations' ability to govern according to the ideals of democracy gets put into question. Approximately 75 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa are estimated to have paid a bribe to the authorities in the past year²³, in order to overlook, excuse or simply not

²¹ ---. "The African Union at 20: Much Accomplished, More Challenges Ahead." Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 2022, africacenter.org/spotlight/african-union-20-much-accomplished-more-challenges-ahead/.

²² ---. "The Role of the African Union and Agenda 2063 in Paving the Future of Africa." Modern Diplomacy, 18 Oct. 2024, moderndiplomacy.eu/2024/10/18/the-role-of-the-african-union-and-agenda-2063-in-paving-the-future-of-africa/.

²³ Transparency International. "Global Corruption Barometer - Africa 9th Edition." Transparency.org, 2015, www.transparency.org/en/gcb/africa/africa-9th-edition.

acknowledge criminal activity within the nation, while poverty and distrust in public institutions continues to increase. A multitude of leaders are no longer deemed reliable by the international community, a fact which decertifies the AU's integrity.

Moreover, the impact of climate change has brought about a multitude of ecological challenges within the continent that the AU has not yet tackled with a holistic approach. Africa's arid, dry climate, which is continuously subject to geological changes and mass desertification, has led to resource scarcity, such as water and agricultural shortages. The continent's bio-diversity and ecosystem loss has also been impacted to a great extent, with sea levels continuing to rise²⁴. Natural disasters are now a prominent phenomenon within Africa, and a failure and observed low resilience in crisis response management has been consistently reported. The fossil fuel crisis and the exploitation of natural African resources also continues to remain a point of heated debate. These extreme phenomena lead to mass poverty, hunger, energy crises, food crises, and go against the AU's mandate, showcasing limited to no benefits from globalization and very minimal financial gains followed by extreme financial losses and debts.

These issues not only lead to dissatisfaction amongst the African population, which in turn leads to distrust in the Union, but also to the significant damage of Africa's developing economies. The majority of AU Member States, namely 33 out of 55, hold the status of Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) by the UN²⁵. Their economies are unable to grow under such extreme circumstances, especially with lowered interest rates for foreign investment and private company funding initiatives as well as general involvement. Billions in GDP have been lost during political affairs, while Africa receives less than 1% of total venture capital compared to about 30% for Asia and about 5% of total foreign direct investment inflows, compared to about 42% for the Asian continent, according to relevant data from the year 2021²⁶. Without economic stability, infrastructure has become increasingly limited, with funding for schools, hospitals and shelters not reaching adequate amounts. This economic uncertainty highlights the multiple security needs the region is facing once more.

²⁴ UNFCCC. "Climate Change Is an Increasing Threat to Africa." Unfccc.int, 27 Oct. 2020, unfccc.int/news/climate-change-is-an-increasing-threat-to-africa.

²⁵ chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.un.org/ohrrls/sites/www.un.org.ohrrls/files/ldcs_facts_and_figures_2024.pdf

²⁶ https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/may-2024/africa's-economic-sovereignty-time-now-african-led-solutions

Divesting resources

Definition

The term divestment can simply be defined as the opposite of an investment, as stated in the section above. It simply means “getting rid of stocks, bonds, or investment funds that are unethical or morally ambiguous”²⁷. Although it is a very broad term, meanings can vary based on the context of its use. For example, there is financial divestment, which generally refers to private companies’ financial affairs, such as the divestment of company stocks, when these lose value. When shifting towards a more political context, divesting resources means deriving these resources, whether it be funds, peacekeeping efforts, manpower, technical assistance, support mechanisms etc. from one initiative to another, or simply towards one initiative. It can be best described as a reallocation of resources towards where they are deemed most necessary. This is precisely the reason why evaluating the efficiency of a divestment towards the AU is essential, as the first step of divestiture is deeming the initiative fit.

There have been a multitude of divestment efforts in the African continent dating back years until the present day. In the past, there has been increasing debate regarding fossil fuel divestment movements²⁸, urging companies to stop engaging in the exploitation of Africa’s natural resources, as well as divestment campaigns against companies that continued business with South Africa during apartheid²⁹. While drawing attention to these initiatives, it becomes clear that divestment is a synonym for withdrawal in a business context.

Relevant stakeholders

Before moving into the resource divestment procedure, it is crucial to understand the relevant stakeholders involved. To begin the divestment process, separate initiatives would need to be identified from which resources could be derived with the purpose of being placed towards the AU’s cooperation. Private company funding initiatives could also be beneficial from a financial support aspect, although these would not be directly involved in the procedure.

²⁷ “What Is Divestment, and Why Is It Important for Africa?” 350 Africa, 2025, 350africa.org/what-is-divestment-and-why-is-it-important-for-africa/. Accessed 15 Feb. 2025.

²⁸ “What Is Divestment, and Why Is It Important for Africa?” 350 Africa, 2025, 350africa.org/what-is-divestment-and-why-is-it-important-for-africa/. Accessed 15 Feb. 2025.

²⁹ “What Is Divestment, and Why Is It Important for Africa?” 350 Africa, 2025, 350africa.org/what-is-divestment-and-why-is-it-important-for-africa/. Accessed 15 Feb. 2025.

Procedure

While evaluating the efficiency of divesting resources towards cooperative efforts with the AU, it is imperative to also examine the AU's current state, its progress, its individual capacity and its international relations management as well as its transparency and communicative abilities.

From a practical point of view, the divestment of resources towards cooperation with the AU is necessary due to the struggles the organization is facing. Africa is developing and currently unstable, as it faces a large variety of challenges and crises in all sectors of life and wellbeing, such as the crises mentioned above³⁰. It would be beneficial to advance the continent's developing international bonds by fostering cooperation, and necessities such as funds, peacekeeping efforts, manpower, and technical assistance as well as support mechanisms could advance the AU's path towards integration, with Agenda 2063 as a guiding framework.

However, it is imperative to keep in mind the core values of the AU itself. It stands firmly for beliefs of Pan-Africanism, self-reliance, and independence. Its dependence to foreign powers is something it highly condemns, after years of protesting against colonization.

Lastly, the AU's identity itself can sometimes be deemed unreliable due to the high statistics of corruption present in its governments. It is also possible that the AU's struggle does not lie in cooperation, but rather the implementation of its already negotiated upon guidelines and frameworks.

Cooperation

Finally, it is of outmost importance to outline the cooperation procedure as well as its requirements. If these cooperative efforts were to take place, the sectors involved would vary.

The political sector would be enhanced through open communication and a transparent manner, as well as the economic, trade and financial, agricultural and socio-cultural.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

African Union (AU)

The African Union (AU) is the main organization involved in the scope of the topic. In the past, the AU has made multiple efforts in order to promote cooperative efforts and ensure Africa's wider integration into the international political landscape. The AU's Joint Action Plan, specifically, highlights how external

³⁰ ISSAfrica.org. "AU Financial Independence: Still a Long Way to Go." ISS Africa, 24 Mar. 2021, issafrica.org/pscreport/psc-insights/au-financial-independence-still-a-long-way-to-go.

cooperation is to take place efficiently, and in a structured, organized manner. Individual partnerships are usually supported through summits, a prominent example being the Africa–League of Arab States (LAS) Summit³¹, which took place to foster relations between the African and the Arab World.

Moreover, peace and security remain the AU's priority. This became evident when the Council introduced the Silencing the Guns by 2020³² movement, a campaign dedicated towards the gradual transition of peace within the continent, which ultimately did not achieve its primary goal due to the Covid-19 pandemic and other geopolitical factors arising. The AU also prioritizes its relations with the United Nations Security Council, as they work closely together to monitor peace and stability in the African region.

In order to evaluate if the AU is fit for cooperation with the UNSC and the UN as a whole, one must carefully examine multiple of its members and the way they cooperate within the council, as well as past peace, negotiation and communication efforts conducted by it.

South Africa

Aside from playing a very important economic role within the AU, South Africa has a long history of apartheid, racial oppression and colonization that ultimately left the nation vulnerable to high counts of criminal activity and a sense of instability. Apartheid was “a policy in South Africa that governed relations between the white minority and nonwhite majority during the 20th century”³³, sanctioning counts of racial segregation, discrimination and propaganda into its legislation, and whose impacts lasted into the 21st century.

After Nelson Mandela's, a political figure and peace advocate, intervention, South Africa gained major economic prosperity. However, in the present day, unemployment stands at 39% of the population and South Africa is among the top 10 most unequal countries globally³⁴. Despite these facts, some consider South Africa to be “at the helm of the African Union”³⁵, especially after it was elected chair of the AU in 2020, and significantly aided the processes of democratization and transparency amongst corrupt governments. Given South Africa's major political reform, optimism regarding its stance within

³¹ “External Partnerships between the AU and Organisations, Regions or Countries | African Union.” Au.int, au.int/en/partnerships.

³² ---. “Main Successes of the AU in Peace and Security, Challenges and Mitigation Measures in Place | African Union.” Au.int, 2019, au.int/en/pressreleases/20170127/main-successes-au-peace-and-security-challenges-and-mitigation-measures-place.

³³ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. “Apartheid.” Encyclopædia Britannica, 3 Dec. 2018, www.britannica.com/topic/apartheid.

³⁴ African Development Bank. “South Africa Economic Outlook.” African Development Bank - Building Today, a Better Africa Tomorrow, Apr. 2019, www.afdb.org/en/countries/southern-africa/south-africa/south-africa-economic-outlook.

³⁵ ---. “South Africa Can Bring the AU Closer to the People.” ISS Africa, 14 Feb. 2019, issafrica.org/iss-today/south-africa-can-bring-the-au-closer-to-the-people.

the Union as an advocate of progress and modernization continues to be expressed in the present day, which ultimately provides the foundations for trust and cooperation with the Union as a whole.

Ghana

Ghana has been a vocal democracy advocate and has engaged in active democratization in the past. In fact, the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Democracy without Borders³⁶, which strives for the end of corruption and the flourishing of democracy across the whole continent, is based in Ghana and represents a vast majority of its civil society.

Ghana's history as a major advocate for democratic proceedings began in 1992, after its revolutionary trajectory into democracy. On the 6th of March, Head of State Jerry Rawlings announced the drafting of a renewed democratic constitution alongside a binding return to civil governance³⁷. Since then the nation has held eight free and fair elections and continues to strive in order to uphold its democratic values and principles, which include "a history of successful political transitions, a free press, an active civil society, and an independent judiciary"³⁸.

World Bank (Africa)

The World Bank is an international organization that continuous to foster economic growth and prosperity in a developing world. Its designated goal remains providing financing, advice, and research to developing nations to aid their economic advancement³⁹. The World Bank's subsidiary body in Africa⁴⁰ could provide necessary aid to combat the AU's economic disparities. Funding and increased financial support will be necessary in both alleviating the Humanitarian crises and improving infrastructure needs within the continent and Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDs). Taking up funding initiatives and cooperating with the WB continuously could improve efforts within the AU for better by providing them with a source of financial support, albeit temporarily.

The World Bank has continuously safeguarded its relations with the AU and African nations in general. Great commitment has been shown from both parties, especially in the advancement of correct monetary distribution and ending corrupt financial practices. An example of this open, ambiguous

³⁶ "Chapter in Ghana - Democracy without Borders." Democracy without Borders, 16 Feb. 2024, www.democracywithoutborders.org/gh/. Accessed 15 Feb. 2025.

³⁷ "Constitutional History of Ghana." ConstitutionNet, constitutionnet.org/country/ghana.

³⁸ chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/USAID-Ghana-Democracy-Fact-Sheet-230705.pdf

³⁹ Kenton, Will. "The World Bank." Investopedia, 28 June 2022, www.investopedia.com/terms/w/worldbank.asp.

⁴⁰ "Africa." World Bank, 2017, www.worldbank.org/en/region/afr.

communication is the AU Commission and World Bank's February 2024 Grant Agreement to foster regional integration⁴¹.

United States of America

The United States of America (USA) play a major economic role and have supported the AU with a few endeavors in the past, including Ghana's democratization reforms. In fact, their cooperation has remained focused on peace operations, conflict prevention and mitigation.

Perhaps the most impactful affair the USA and the AU have achieved through transnational cooperative efforts is the 2022 U.S.- African Leaders' Summit, during which the U.S. "pledged to invest \$55 billion in Africa over three years"⁴², a promise which turned out to become untrue, since the country ended up investing \$65 billion in the AU under the Biden-Harris Administration. Furthermore, the U.S. helped secure the Union's spot in G20, as well as advance transcontinental infrastructure and expand the trade and economic sector.

African Development Bank (AfDB)

The African Development Bank⁴³ is a bank dedicated towards the African Continent's sustainable development and integration. The Bank is guided by its 5 operational priorities, and has two strategic objectives: focusing on economic growth while simultaneously nurturing the African environment and biodiversity⁴⁴. Its resources could be deemed extremely useful in the support of transparent communication and mutual understanding.

Since the AfDB is central on development, it is essential in the scope of the topic. The bank has estimated that "growth rates above 5 percent expected in close to half of the continent's countries in 2025; 12 of world's 20 fastest growing economies will be African"⁴⁵. Although experts are estimating the AU's positive economic trajectory, Africa's economy remains vulnerable to so called "global shocks" or

⁴¹"The African Union Commission and World Bank Seal a New Grant Agreement to Foster Regional Integration." World Bank, www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2024/02/22/the-african-union-commission-and-world-bank-seal-a-new-grant-agreement-to-foster-regional-integration.

⁴² Mission, U.S. "FACT SHEET." U.S. Mission to the African Union, 16 Dec. 2024, usau.usmission.gov/fact-sheet/. Accessed 15 Feb. 2025.

⁴³ African Development Bank. "African Development Bank - Building Today, a Better Africa Tomorrow." [Afdb.org](https://afdb.org), 2019, www.afdb.org/en.

⁴⁴ Bank, Development. "Mission and Strategy." African Development Bank Group, 10 July 2018, www.afdb.org/en/about/mission-and-strategy.

⁴⁵ Bank, Development. "African Development Bank: New Report Highlights Africa's Strengthening Economic Growth amid Global Challenges." African Development Bank Group, 14 Feb. 2025, www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-new-report-highlights-africas-strengthening-economic-growth-amid-global-challenges-80967. Accessed 15 Feb. 2025.

crises, with reports indicating that AU development remains below the 7 percent threshold required for substantial poverty reduction.

Blocs Expected

Alliance 1

Alliance 1 should be comprised of Member States that are willing to engage actively in divesting resources, support international cooperation and are able to keep structural settings in mind. Countries like the United States of America (USA), as well as the United Kingdom (UK) or EU countries like France should work together in order to prioritize divesting resources in cooperative efforts.

Alliance 2

Alliance 2 should be comprised of all African Member States as well as Member States that choose to uphold a more neutral approach or are unable to make major contributions in the scope of the broader topic, such as the Russian Federation or the Peoples' Republic of China. Furthermore, nations that see the AU as unfit to take on these cooperative efforts should be sorted into this Alliance.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of Event
May, 1963	Establishment of the OAU
March 6 th , 1992	Ghana's Head of State, Jerry Rawlings, announces a new democratic constitution and the return to civil governance
9 th September, 1999	Issuance of the Sirte Declaration
July, 2002	Official launch of the African Union (AU)
16 th November 2006	Declaration regarding peace, security, and UN-AU cooperation is signed
2020	South Africa is elected chair of the African Union, aiding democratization and transparency efforts
February 2024	The African Union Commission and the World Bank sign a Grant Agreement to foster regional integration

Present Day	AU operates under Agenda 2063 and collaborates with the UNSC
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Relevant UN Resolutions, Treaties & Events

UN-AU cooperation Framework for the African Union

The 10 year UN-AU cooperation Framework for the African Union⁴⁶ serves as an example of how transnational UN cooperation works within the AU. The Deceleration was signed on 16 November 2006 by the UN Secretary General and the Chairperson of the AU commission in furtherance of the 2005 World Summit Outcome as well as the 1990 Cooperation Agreement between the UN and the OAU. The framework emphasizes the importance peace and national security hold in today’s globalized world, and pledges to foster cooperation with the relevant African member states in need. Furthermore, the essential themes of the partnership include “preventing and mitigating conflict, responding to conflict, addressing root causes and enhancing the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing AU led operations”⁴⁷, which could include the divestiture of resources.

UN Security Council resolutions 2320 (2016)

The UN Security Council resolution 2320 (2016)⁴⁸ unanimously supports cooperation with the AU by welcoming its proposal to create and co fund a cost sharing structure aimed at promoting peace and security throughout the African continent. Furthermore, the SC encouraged the AU to “finalize its disciplinary and conduct-compliance frameworks and to achieve greater accountability, transparency and compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law”⁴⁹.

2013 African Union Summit (Agenda 2063)

Agenda 2063, an agenda promoting sustainable development goals and widely regarded as the AU’s base document, was conducted during the 2013 AU Summit⁵⁰. It aims towards an “integrated, peaceful,

⁴⁶ <https://unterm.un.org/unterm2/en/view/10db53f4-54fe-43d1-8899-ff31faafab5c>

⁴⁷ chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://unoau.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/01_un-au_joint-framework_a5-booklet_en.pdf

⁴⁸ “UNTERM.” Un.org, 2025, unterm.un.org/unterm2/en/view/10db53f4-54fe-43d1-8899-ff31faafab5c. Accessed 15 Feb. 2025.

⁴⁹ “Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution 2320 (2016), Welcoming Cost-Sharing Proposal, Stronger Cooperation between United Nations, African Union | UN Press.” Press.un.org, press.un.org/en/2016/sc12595.doc.htm.

⁵⁰ “Agenda 2063 | AUDA-NEPAD.” Nepad.org, 2024, www.nepad.org/agenda2063.

Pan-African, democratic, prosperous, people driven and influential Africa”⁵¹. Orientation in regards to the aspirations of the AU is crucial, as it is oftentimes considered the AU’s foundation for any and all operations as well as orientation plan. According to the Agenda, sustainability and integration will have been achieved until the year 2063, in a timeframe of 50 years.

During the initial summit, African leaders expressed their visions for a prosperous Africa for all. They drafted Agenda 2063, as well as a designated tracker to track progress. Currently, crucial efforts have been made in preserving a high standard of living, as well as ocean economic advancements. However, some goals still lie at a staggering 1% accomplishment, like the goal for peace and security, a fact that is particularly alarming and imperative to be taken into serious consideration by the UNSC.

5th AU-United Nations (UN) Joint Review of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM),

The 5th AU- United Nations (UN) Joint Review of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)⁵² was a joint effort by both an AU and UN delegations conducted in order to monitor the Somalia Transition Plan with Somalia’s independence in mind, after it was mandated by the UNSC resolution 2753. Somalia strived towards, and did in fact achieve independence and significant reforms through the aid of the UN. The operations provided good offices, as well as guidance in all sectors and capacity building in order to support the cause. The example of the Joint Review showcases, once again, the communicative capabilities of the Union and the UNSC’s successful work within it.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Constitutional reforms

There have been countless attempts at the reformation and democratization of constitutions with the purpose of upholding democracy and ending corrupt practices. Even though they were successful in some instances, others were not able to complete that transition easily. In fact, even if they did achieve fair elections, democracy was far off, as the newly formed constitutions lacked experience and governance. When setting reforms in place, a slow, peaceful and steady process has ultimately been proven more effective for the nation and citizens affected. Rushed constitutional reforms dishonor a nation’s integrity, make the transition too swift and definitively do not put it in a preferable state, and peace cannot be preserved. When making any sort of monetary transition, there needs to be absolute

⁵¹“Agenda 2063 | AUDA-NEPAD.” Nepad.org, 2024, www.nepad.org/agenda2063.

⁵² “Joint AU-UN Team Arrives in Somalia to Review AMISOM’s Mandate - AMISOM.” AMISOM, 8 Mar. 2019, amisom-au.org/2019/03/joint-au-un-team-arrive-in-somalia-to-review-amisoms-mandate/. Accessed 15 Feb. 2025.

transparency and open communication. Moreover, UN assisted missions strictly aim to grant independence, without any overreliance on excessive funding.

Financial independence efforts

Multiple financial independence efforts have been insinuated in the past, but ultimately, none of them provided distinct planning or frameworks. A very notable one consists of the AU Peace Fund, an AU affiliated funding mechanism that pushes for African financial autonomy and adequate funds for peace initiatives. After its revitalization in 2018, the AU Peace fund has continued to strive for a prosperous Africa and covers three balance aspects, namely “mediation and preventive diplomacy, peace support operations (PSOs) and institutional capacity building”⁵³. It consists of a distinct structure, including a Board of Trustees, an executive management committee, a secretariat, fund manager, as well as an independent evaluation group. Despite its coordination, the AU Peace Fund ultimately lacked in the effective distribution of resources, even though it brought in countless financial profit for the African continent, an observed pattern amongst financial initiatives.

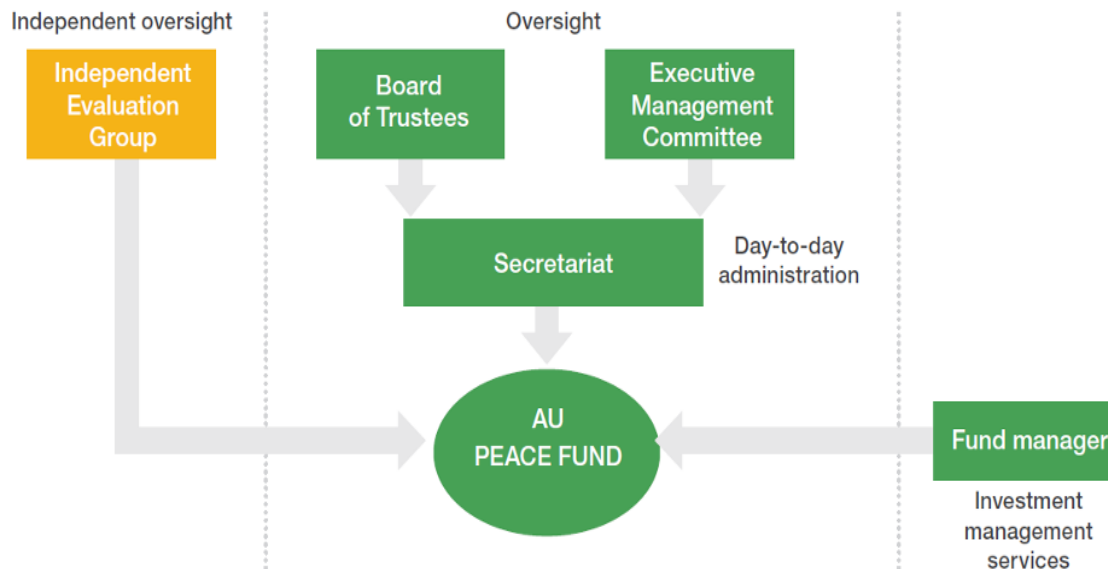


Figure 3: Graph depicting the AU Peace Fund procedure⁵⁴

International Assistance

International assistance was often delivered in the form of monetary aid and funding by More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs). Even though it provided temporary relief, it ultimately

⁵³ “Sustaining the African Union’s Peace Fund | PSC Report.” ISS Africa, 2024, issafrica.org/pscreport/psc-insights/sustaining-the-african-union-s-peace-fund.

⁵⁴ “Sustaining the African Union’s Peace Fund | PSC Report.” ISS Africa, 2024, issafrica.org/pscreport/psc-insights/sustaining-the-african-union-s-peace-fund.

created a state of dependency. Since a prominent AU goal remains political integration for Africa as an autonomous entity, international assistance efforts in the divestiture of resources could set the foundations for the continent's overreliance on foreign powers. This defies the AU's objective. In future international assistance efforts, the long term recovery and rehabilitation of Africa and all nations within it should be taken into consideration. Thus, the process of divesting resources needs to take Africa's long term stability and improvement into thorough consideration. Solutions shall not just be temporary funding initiatives, but distinct plans that will have the capacity to rehabilitate the African political and humanitarian scene.

Economic integration; African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The AU's economic integration is often aided by the African Continental Free Trade Area, or AfCFTA⁵⁵. The AfCFTA is considered one of the projects conducted via Agenda 2063, with the aim of creating a trading platform to further establish African financial prosperity and autonomy. In technicality, it could be considered a financial independence effort. However, its international relevance enhances its significance as a tool directly powering the continent's economic integration. The AfCFTA is also distinctly comprised of a distinct structure. Its main operative function is to create a single market of goods and services within the continent.

Possible Solutions

Evaluation criteria

The establishment of strict evaluation criteria in regards to the resource divestment will be very helpful in the determination of the AU's stance towards it. It is necessary in order to receive a general idea of how the AU functions and if this cooperation is, in fact, plausible and possible in a setting of transparency and mutual understanding, as well as if it is needed or if it would undermine the continent's call for independence. The AU's internal proceedings, current international affairs, and previous work with the UN Security Council should be evaluated.

Strengthening of self- financing mechanisms

The AU has already shown great promise when it comes to producing self-reliant monetary organizations, as mentioned above. However, strengthening these mechanisms is crucial in order to promote peace and stability as well as ensure that the divested funds will be managed in a proper way. This can be achieved through open communication, distinct transparency and funding initiatives.

⁵⁵ AfCFTA. "Home - AfCFTA." AfCFTA, 16 June 2022, au-afcfta.org/.

Improvement of institutions

The improvement of institutions, governments and putting a stop to corruption is one of the most important steps in tackling this issue. Without ending corrupt practices, cooperation and transparency will never be possible. Institutions, like hospitals, schools and other infrastructural programs, should be prioritized. This could take place through joint rebuilding efforts, with the support of funding, or through sustainability frameworks.

Precise frameworks and regulations

Frameworks are needed in order to evaluate divesting resources to the AU. Cooperation guidelines should be set and distinct orders should be negotiated upon in order to ensure the cooperation remains transparent, ambiguous and impartial, as well as organized and structured. These guidelines should include overseeing mechanisms, as well as measures to moderate the divestiture.

International cooperative efforts

An international divestment of resources cannot take place without the provision of international cooperation. It is essential that all parties make effort in order to communicate and contemplate efficiently. This can be achieved through the hosting of summits, as well as other cooperative initiatives, like the founding of a UN subsidiary body. However, unlike past efforts, Africa's prosperity and integrity should be centralized, and its previous overreliance be put to an end.

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